



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

*Headteacher: Mrs Helen Armstrong
Diocese of Plymouth*

26th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am sure that like us you were absolutely delighted to hear that we will be returning to school on the 8th March. You may also be aware that the Government has advised that those who are Critically Extremely Vulnerable must continue to 'shield' until the 31st March. This means that a number of staff will not be available to return to school on the 8th, including myself. I am currently working with the staff to put together a plan whereby they can still teach the children in school remotely. Whilst this presents many challenges, I am working to ensure that the children will be well supported when they return.

On return to school, there may be some temporary arrangements in place which could include:

teachers teaching live lessons from home, supported by the teaching assistants in class

the use supply teachers in some year groups

As soon as I have the final plan in place I will inform individual year groups affected by this. Please be reassured that there will be a familiar member of staff available for each class.

The Plymouth CAST Risk Assessment is currently being updated and should be with Headteachers by tomorrow. I will carefully work through the document and update it to mitigate the risks for us as a school. This will be shared with you once it has been signed off by Plymouth CAST. The plan at the moment is that the children will return to school with the same expectations as we had in September this will include staggered starts and finishes.

As before, there will be a big emphasis on social distancing, hand washing, and ventilation. We would really appreciate it if this week you could remind your child about keeping their distance and remind them to wash their hands thoroughly and regularly. This will really help the staff in school. We would also remind parents that you will need to continue socially distancing from other parents when dropping off and picking up, and would ask that you wear a mask when speaking to school staff.



I know that some of you have found it difficult to get the children motivated to do their remote learning this week and we have seen a decrease in the amount of work being returned. I want to reassure you that we do understand the fatigue that you as parents are feeling, there is just one more week to go so keep your spirits up and enjoy this time with your children, for what we hope will be the last period of home-based learning. Our thoughts are with you.

There has been some wonderful work being produced and we hope there will be even more next week. Let's celebrate:

"Inspiring each other to learn, in the light of Christ"

Devon Road – Poole – Dorset – BH15 3QQ

Telephone: (01202) 676207

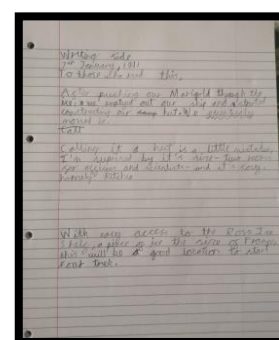
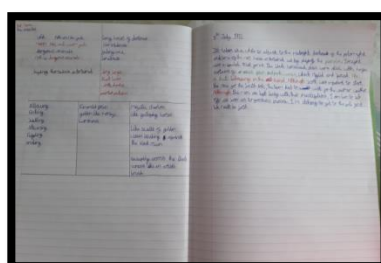
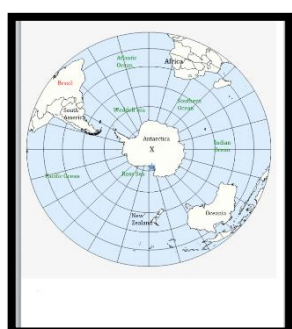
Website: www.st-marys.poole.sch.uk

E-mail: office@st-marys.poole.sch.uk

In Year 2 they have made pots of kindness. Inside they have written 40 acts of kindness that they will do during Lent. Liana even used her own pocket money to buy some Cheerios for the foodbank. Well done to Liana, Freya, Henry, Lillie-Skye, Magdelana (and Vincent) and Bessie.



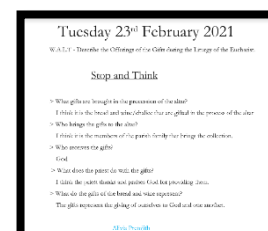
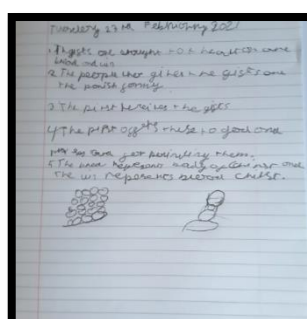
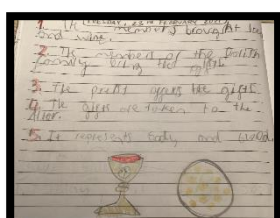
In Year 6 Chelzin produced a map of the southern hemisphere whilst Theo and Rocco produced some diary entries as Captain Scott. Well done.



In Year 1 Cleo made a super rocket to travel to the moon in, whilst Jovit created a super hero who was kind, courageous and beautiful.



In Year 3, I chose some RE work. Well done to Alivia, Nela, Ellie and Bobby for describing the offerings of the gifts during the Eucharist.

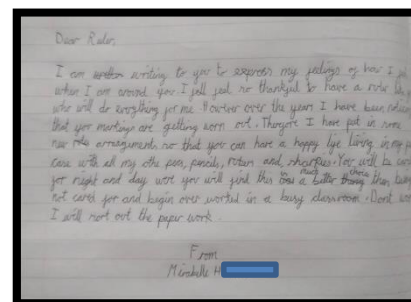
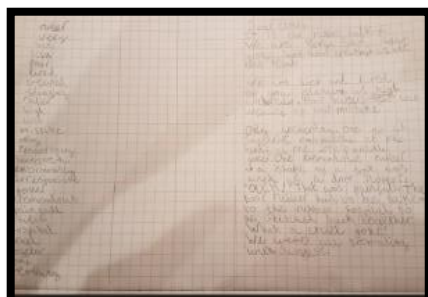
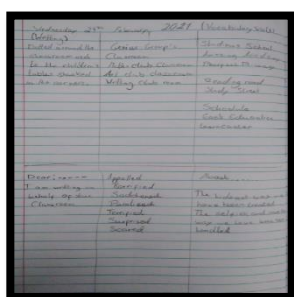


In Science they have been learning about the human skeleton. Bruno this is amazing! It is bigger than you!

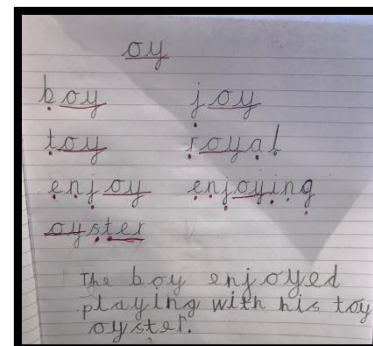
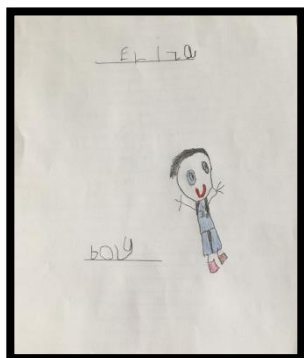
Look at all the delicious pancakes I saw on the Year 4 classroom! Well done Aarish, Natalia, Antoinette.



The independent writing produced in Year 5 from Anna, Jakub and Mirabelle was excellent.



Our Foundation Stage children have been doing lots of exciting things as well. Eliza and Sophia have been writing and drawing pictures. Joseph wrote lots of words on one page. Well done to them all.



Don't forget that on Thursday 4th March we will be celebrating World Book Day. Please send in your photographs as soon as possible of your child dressed up as a word but not showing the word! The teachers will be planning work around books for the children to complete.

Here is our first entry. Isn't it brilliant! Can you guess the word?



Can you believe it is 'Fairtrade Fortnight' again? I think the cafes we had in school last February were our last event before the first lockdown. The teachers have put activities on the classrooms for the children to follow and we would ask that, if possible, you buy something that is Fairtrade in your shopping this week. The climate crisis is happening now. For Fairtrade producers, this is one of their biggest challenges. Low prices for their crops mean that they are struggling to fight back. Fairtrade gives them higher income so they can meet their everyday needs and deal with the challenges of climate change. Thank you for supporting Fairtrade.

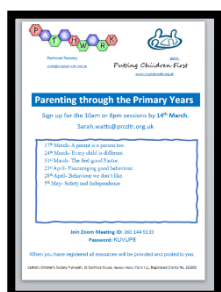


A special thank you to Andrea Johnson who put a shout out to St Mary's staff in the Bournemouth Echo this week. It really was much appreciated. <https://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/news/19109902.listed-dorset-schools-teachers-praised-parents/>

St Mary's Catholic Combined School

Andrea Johnson: "St Mary's Catholic Combined School for keeping school working both on site and google classroom home learning. Weekly class zoom meetings, teachers encouragement through daily challenges, stars of the week awards and teacher phone calls to support everyone."

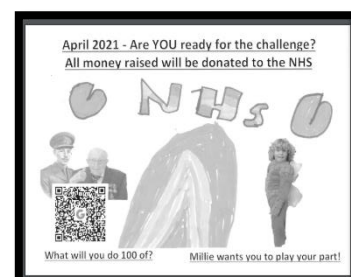
Over half term the staff took part in a 'Cook Off/Bake Off' for fun. We have made it into a fun competition. If you would like to enter please guess who made which dish and email your answers into the office (office@st-marys.poole.sch.uk). The sheet is attached. Good Luck!



The Plymouth Catholic Children's society are organising some parenting courses, 'Parenting through the Primary Years'. I have attached the details with this update and you are all welcome to attend as the sessions are via Zoom.

Millie in Year 3 is organising a fund raising event on Friday 30th April. This date has been chosen as Sir Captain Tom would have been 101. She is raising money by doing 100 things!

We will all be supporting Millie with this event and hope that many children will join in as well. More details to follow.



I am pleased to share with you that there are lots more house points this week. Thank you to you all for contributing.



Red 264

Blue 229

Green 254

Yellow

361



The children will be returning to school in full uniform and in PE kits for the full day on the days they have PE.

If your child has grown out of their uniform and you are struggling to get new we still have a large amount of good quality second hand uniform available. Please, if you require anything specific, email the office and we will hopefully be able to help.

PE days for each year group are as follows:

F2 -Tuesday

Year 1 – Wednesday and Thursday

Year 2 – Tuesday, Wednesday (2H), Thursday (2E)

Year 3 – Tuesday and Wednesday

Year 4 – Wednesday and Thursday

Year 5 – Monday and Friday

Year 6 – Thursday and Friday

As always I thank you for your support and understanding. We are living through very difficult and stressful times but hopefully things will continue to improve and we will see a big reduction in the number of people suffering because of Covid.

Please stay safe and well.

Yours faithfully,

Helen Armstrong

Headteacher